

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

OPIC-06 IGA-02 INT-05 XMB-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /100 W

----- 096994

P 071830Z PAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 709

UNCLAS KINGSTON 1448

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EINV, PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: REYNOLDS CLOSED BY STRIKE

1. OPERATIONS AT REYNOLDS JAMAICA MINES LTD CAME TO AN ABRUPT END APRIL 6 WHEN SOME 450 UNIONIZED (NWU) WORKERS WALKED OFF THEIR JOBS. SOME OF THEM FORCIBLY ENTERED THE POWER PLANT AND SHUT IT DOWN, AFTER THREATENING A SUPERVISOR, WHILE OTHERS LET OUT THE WATER FROM THE COMPANY RESERVOIR.

2. NO PERSONNEL WERE INJURED IN THE SHUTDOWN AND REYNOLDS GENERAL MANGER, KIRBY HARRISON, HAS ASSURED EMBASSY NONE OF HIS PERSONNEL ARE IN JEOPARDY. POLICE AND ARMY UNITS ARE NOW AT THE MINE AND PROVIDING ADEQUATE SECURITY.

3. THE STRIKE FOLLOED THE NWU'S REJECTION OF WHAT

THE COMPANY TERMED ITS "FINAL" LABOR CONTRACT OFFER EARLIER IN THE MORNING. THE PREVIOUS LABOR CONTRACT RAN OUT MAY 31, 1975. WORKERS HAVE CONTINUED TO BE PAID AT THE OLD CONTRACT RATES PENDING CONCLUSION OF A NEW AGREEMENT.

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4. THIS IS THE SECOND STRIKE ON THE WAGE ISSUE
SINCE THE CONTRACT EXPIRED. LATE LAST YEAR A SIMILAR
WORK STOPPAGE OCCURRED AND LASTED ABOUT A WEE. THE
WORKERS ARE IN AN UGLIER MODD THIS TIME, AND THIS
STRIKE COULD GO ON MUCH LONGER. A MEETING BETWEEN
THE UNION AND THE COMPANY HAS BEEN ARRANGED BY THE MINISTRY
OF LABOR FOR THIS FRIDAY.
GERARD

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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